

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2006



"The fellowship offered a chance to see the workings of the Capitol on a different level.

The richness of my experience in this building is indescribable. The fast pace of the environment coupled with the access to legislators, community organizations and lobbyists has widened my world view."

Araceli Almazán

The Center for California Studies is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento devoted to promoting understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984 and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government. The Center draws on the services and talents of scholars throughout the 23 campuses of the California State University and on the expertise of professionals and practitioners throughout the state.

2006-2007 CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS

At no other time in its history has California been so squarely at the forefront of societal change and public policy demands. The list of challenges and opportunities for meaningful public policy decision-making is unprecedented.

A small group of keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals has the opportunity to work within this environment as California Senate Fellows. With the Capitol as both workplace and classroom, Senate Fellows serve as professional Senate staff members and earn graduate units from California State University, Sacramento.

The fellowship program is jointly sponsored by the California Senate and the Center for California Studies, California State University, Sacramento.









"The program provides an insider's perspective on how decisions are made that affect all Californians. You build relationships, learn about complex policy issues, and seek compromises that will help the state. Doors are opened to whatever future you choose." Patricia Chávez



"The fellowship is set in a maelstrom of competing powers and interests at the confluence of history and progress. It offers frontline access to the considerable public policy issues of California – often before they affect the rest of the republic. Under the guidance of virtuous mentors, Fellows play a legitimate role in 'protecting the liberty of the people.""

Lance Christensen

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Photographs by Don Nahhas

"With inquisitiveness, initiative and a strong work ethic, a Fellow will be entrusted with high-priority responsibilities. I was able to fulfill my goal of affecting change and assisting vulnerable populations. My fellowship experiences solidified my desire to continue my engagement in public service."





"My duties included briefing the Senator on environmental quality and other policy issues, and I was responsible for staffing several bills. I interacted with lobbyists, legislative staff and constituents, and developed working relationships with people from both political parties and from regions throughout the state."

EXPERIÊNCE AND INSIGHT INTO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

he California Senate Fellows program grew out of a desire to provide people with insight into the legislative process through experiential learning. It offers college graduates a paid, fulltime legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months.

The fellowship broadens the perspective of those planning careers in academia, public service and the private sector. Fellows develop an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their chosen fields of work as well as to their other areas of interest.

In addition to providing Fellows with exposure to the legislative process, the program provides Senate members and policy committees with research and other professional staff assistance

Fellows are expected to have a strong interest in public policy and politics; however, prior legislative experience is not required. A fiveweek orientation at the beginning of the program includes information and discussion pertaining to state government, the legislative process and major policy issues.



"The Senate fellowship is an environment in which you will be challenged yet respected. Your convictions will be tested and, at times, shaken. But in the end, you will have a better understanding of who you are politically and individually. I was amazed with my colleagues' intellect and life accomplishments. I know I was in the presence of tomorrow's leaders."

Gilbert V. Gonzales



"I became a Fellow to explore careers in public policy, unsure of what to expect or how I might benefit. Not only did I learn what elements of a career would be necessary to motivate me day after day, but, also, that policy work in the Senate provides them: public service, intellectual stimulation, and a warm community of people ready to share their knowledge and friendship."

Fellows meet and learn from Senators, senior legislative staff, journalists, lobbyists and various state government officials. The Fellows also participate in academic seminars conducted by university faculty.

Senate Fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the Legislature, and others hold highlevel positions in the executive branch. Some former Fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the Legislature or the U.S. Congress. Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.

The fellowship program was established in 1973. In 1984, the program affiliated with the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) and is now jointly operated by the Senate and the university.



While participating in mock committee hearings, Fellows assume the roles of Senators, staff, lobbyists and members of the public.





"I expected a challenge
that would help me grow
professionally. What I didn't
expect was the level of
personal growth. I was treated
like any other member of
the team in my office. I was
responsible for several bills
from the first hearing to the
last set of amendments. That
said, when I needed advice
or direction, my mentor and
others were always helpful and
encouraging."

Kendra Harris

THE ACADEMIC COMPONENT

he academic portion of the Senate Fellows program consists of two graduate seminars taught by faculty from the Sacramento State government department.

Weekly seminars in the Capitol provide an academic perspective to complement what each Fellow is learning through his or her office placement. The seminars also afford an opportunity for Fellows to discuss their respective fellowship work experiences.

The academic component increases knowledge and understanding of legislatures and state government, thereby enhancing the Fellows' effectiveness as Senate staff. The program Faculty Advisor assigns written projects and oral presentations.

Fellows register as Sacramento State graduate students during the Spring 2007 semester. All student fees are paid through the program; there is no cost to individual Fellows

Senate Fellows earn 12 units of graduate credit. Although some of the units are applicable toward a graduate degree at Sacramento State, separate application to a specific degree program is required.

Other universities accept the units on a case-by-case basis. Fellows are eligible to defer their student loans for the duration of the program.



Fellows participate in weekly academic seminars conducted in the Capitol.



"The fellowship provided me not only with valuable political and work experience but taught me the value of communication and relationships both within and outside the Capitol. I learned the policy process, but, more importantly, I discovered new goals, explored longstanding interests, and strengthened existing values."

Mark H. Jackson



2004-2005 SENATE FELLOWS



Front Row, Left to Right: Patricia Chávez, Kendra Harris, Layla Razavi, David Rodriguez, Jennifer Gress, Beatriz Duque, and Araceli Almazán.

Back Row, Left to Right: Helen Seliverstov, Satinder Singh Malhi, Rei Onishi, Matthew Schrap, Tiffany Chung, Gilbert Gonzales, Linda Montemayor, Lance Christensen, Mark H. Jackson, Camille Wagner, and Anne Neville.

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The Senate Fellows program is about learning, working hard and scholarship; but it's also about having a good time and developing friendships.

Seventeen other fellows help to make the fellowship a very special and memorable experience.



2004-2005 SENATE FELLOWS

Araceli Almazán

Los Angeles, CA B.A. (Political Science), UC* Los Angeles

Patricia Chávez

Huron, CA

B.A. (Political Science, Mass

Communications and Broadcast Journalism),

CSU** Fresno

Lance Christensen

Aurora, CO M.P.P. (International Relations), Pepperdine University; B.A. (English), Brigham Young University

Tiffany Chung

Fountain Valley, CA B.A. (Social Science, Sociology), UC Irvine

Beatriz Duque

Laguna Niguel, CA B.A. (Philosophy, Political Science), CSU Fullerton

Gilbert V. Gonzales

Fresno, CA B.A. (Political Science, Media Studies), Pitzer College

Jennifer Gress

Mt. Gilead, OH Ph.D. candidate (Social Ecology), UC Irvine; B.A. (Psychology, Spanish), Denison University

Kendra Harris

Carson, CA B.S. (Business Administration), CSU Dominguez Hills

Mark H. Jackson

Redlands, CA B.A. (Political Science), University of Southern California

Satinder Singh Malhi

Martinez, CA B.A. (Politics and Legal Studies), UC Santa Cruz

Linda Montemayor

Visalia, CA B.A. (Liberal Studies), Fresno Pacific University

Anne Neville

San Diego, CA B.A. (Philosophy), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Rei Onishi

Citrus Heights, CA B.A. (Philosophy, Social Studies), Harvard University

Layla Razavi

San Diego, CA B.A. (Political Philosophy), UC Santa Cruz

David Rodriguez

Duarte, CA B.S. (Business Management), Pepperdine University

Matthew Schrap

Incline Village, NV B.A. (Government), CSU Sacramento

Helen Seliverstov

Northridge, CA B.A. (Political Science, Russian Studies), UC Los Angeles

Camille Wagner

Los Angeles, CA B.A. (Political Science), University of Notre Dame

> *University of California **California State University



"I thought Washington was the place I should go to cultivate my love for politics and public policy. Little did I realize that only an hour's drive from my hometown could I fulfill this goal and so much more. By becoming involved in the process rather than being a mere spectator, I had an opportunity to interact with policymakers and citizens alike while helping to shatter stereotypes." Satinder Singh Malhi

THE WORK OF A SENATE FELLOW

hat does a Fellow do? Fellows perform the full range of professional staff functions associated with busy legislative offices. During the orientation period, Fellows participate in an interview process that results in their assignment to a specific office for the remainder of the program.

Although each Fellow's placement is unique, there are two main categories — assignments to an individual Senator's Capitol office and placements with Senate policy committees. Sometimes, there is a mix of committee and personal office work responsibilities.

SENATE MEMBER'S OFFICE

Fellows assigned to the Capitol offices of Senate members have a variety of responsibilities in several different policy areas. Primarily, they assist their Senators in developing and implementing the member's legislative agenda.

Fellows work on their legislator's bills, write speeches and press releases, meet with constituents and lobbyists, aid with constituent inquiries and casework, staff the member in assigned issue areas, and perform other delegated tasks.

SENATE POLICY COMMITTEES

Fellows are part of the professional staff who analyze legislation before it is considered in committee. Each committee is assigned responsibility for acting on legislation in specific issue areas. Consequently, Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee.

Additional committee staff responsibilities include research assignments and assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation that she or he is moving through the Legislature.

STIPEND & BENEFITS

ellows receive monthly stipends as well as health, vision and dental benefits. The amount of the monthy stipend for the 2005-2006 fiscal year is \$1972.





"As I walk into the building each day, I cannot help but look up at the Capitol dome and realize how blessed I am. I have been both challenged and humbled by this experience. I am reminded of the responsibility and trust placed in me to serve the citizens of California. I have been given the tools, insight and opportunity to take what I have learned back to my community." Linda Montemayor

"The Capitol is a nexus of intellectual policy debate and high-level political strategy. My fellowship offered an unparalleled experience to understand and participate in the decisions behind the sound bytes. By staffing legislation, writing committee analyses, and negotiating budget items - all under the tutelage of experienced mentors - I learned how policy ideas, good and bad, become law" Anne Neville



WHO CAN APPLY?

he program welcomes applications from anyone who will be at least 20 years of age and a graduate of a four-year college or university by September 1, 2006, and who is authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program.

Applicants need not be California residents; however, preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate knowledge of — and commitment to — the state. There is no preferred major. Recent college graduates, individuals with advanced degrees, and people who are considering a change in career are all encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

very applicant must submit a packet consisting of the completed application, college transcript(s), three letters of recommendation and a written personal statement.

Applications and additional information are available on the program Web sites at www.csus. edu/calst/senate and www.sen. ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/_home.

Individuals who do not have access to the Internet and/or who would like additional information pertaining to the California Senate

Fellows program should contact the program director at (916) 651-4160 (Senate) or (916) 278-5408 (Sacramento State).

Copies of the brochures and applications for all four fellowship programs administered by the Center for California Studies can be obtained by visiting the Center Web site at www.csus.edu/calst or by contacting the Center at (916) 278-6906 or calstudies@csus edu.



"Nothing in a college political science or government class can prepare you for how different real public policy making is from what you've read in textbooks.... My Senator put his trust in me to usher an important and controversial technology/privacy bill through the challenges of the political process."

Rei Onishi



social change. This

activism."

Layla Razavi

understanding will serve

me through a lifetime of

"The fellowship is an excellent opportunity to learn about politics and public policy. More importantly, it provides for participation in the process, which is the hallmark of any great democracy. You can take this lesson with you to any position in the future, whether you work inside or outside of the Capitol building."

SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

ighteen Fellows are selected in May.
Fellowships are awarded after a paper screening and panel interviews of finalists conducted in either Sacramento or Los Angeles. (The selection panel is unable to conduct interviews by telephone, and funds are not available to reimburse applicants for travel expenses.)

Alternates are also selected and may be offered fellowships anytime before the program begins in October 2006.

Academic background and grade point average are important criteria. The selection panel carefully considers each applicant's employment history, depth and breadth of community and campus activities, and demonstrated interest in public policy and politics.

Applicants' personal statements are an especially significant part of the application packet.

There are many desirable characteristics associated with prospective Fellows — including strong writing and oral communication skills, maturity, initiative, flexibility, and well-developed organizational and analytical abilities.

FILING DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2006

ompleted application packets must be postmarked no later than February 22, 2006, to be eligible for consideration. There are no exceptions to the application deadline.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES

February 22, 2006 Application

deadline

May 4 & 5, 2006 Sacramento

interview dates

May 11 & 12, 2006 Los Angeles

interview dates

May 2006 Notification

of selection

October 2006 Senate

Fellows begin orientation

September 2007 Program

concludes



"The California Senate Fellows program offers an unparalleled opportunity to appreciate and realize the complexities of state politics and policy making from a very privileged perspective. There is nothing that can compare to the tremendous all-around experience of being a Fellow; I wouldn't trade it for anything." Matthew Schrap



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Log on at:

www.csus.edu/calst/senate or www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/_ home

Or call us at:

(916) 651-4160 (Senate) (916) 278-5408 (Sacramento State) Program Director



During their fellowship, program participants are exposed to a wide range of public policy issues. Classroom presentations and discussions are supplemented with field trips. Past classes have visited the California Highway Patrol Academy; penal institutions; state parks and recreation facilities; dams and fish hatcheries; waste management and recycling facilities; and dairy farms and other agricultural venues.

"The program facilitated an easier transition from an academic to a work environment with a solid network of individuals going through the same experience. The people I met and the issues I got to work on provided unique opportunities and prospects that would have never been available to me otherwise."

Helen Seliverstov





"No two days in the Capitol are the same; having dual responsibilities in my Senator's office and with the Local Government Committee definitely kept me on my toes. I had the opportunity to fully participate in policy making, bill analysis and constituent correspondence. The mentoring and exposure to politics were invaluable tools that will continue to shape my political indentity." Camille Wagner

